

Serial No.: 09/955,371
Examiner: Puneet Bhandari

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 25 and 27-29 remain in this application. Claims 1-24 and 26 have been canceled. Claims 27-29 have been added.

In the outstanding official action claim 25 was rejected under 35 USC 102 (e) as being anticipated by *Hama* (US 2004/0202171). In support of the rejection, the Examiner set forth that *Hama* discloses "A plurality of first nodes having no actual routing capability is anticipate by *VLAN 101* disclosed in Fig. 12. Applicants respectfully assert that this is not what is shown in *Hama*. In particular, in *Hama*, column 8 paragraph 0092, the detailed description of Figure 12 is given. In part, it states that "a packet is transmitted from the user **ROUTER** CPE A belonging to the VLAN (VID=101)..." As VLAN 101 includes a router, Applicants respectfully assert that VLAN 101 would in fact have actual routing capability. Therefore, as each and every element of the present invention is not disclosed, taught, or rendered obvious by *Hama* or any of the cited references, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants further assert, that for similar reasons with respect to claim 25, claims 27-29 are also patentable over *Hama*.


It is believed that the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance; therefore, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of

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the claims of the Office Action, and full allowance of same. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 8/5/05

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